

# PROMINENT PEOPLE

## HEAD OF NATIONAL GRANGE



The newly-elected master of the National Grange, chosen at Columbus, Ohio, is Oliver Wilson of Magnolia, Ill. He is a native of Ohio, but has lived in Illinois since childhood. He is a farmer and has been a member of the grange 40 years. For fifteen years he has been head of the Illinois state organization.

Patrons of Husbandry, as the grangers are known officially, is a secret order of the United States which was founded at Washington, D. C., December 4, 1867. Its purpose is to promote the interest of persons engaged in agricultural pursuits and in business connected therewith. General depression in this line of activity following the Civil war was the impulse which brought this excellent organization into being. Men connected with several of the departments at Washington conceived the idea and prepared the first ritual, but women are gladly accepted as members and have important parts in the initiatory work and conduct of grange lodges.

Today, thousands of subordinate granges, scattered through nearly every state and territory of the Union, bear witness to the substantial growth of this beneficial order.

The grange is a chamber of commerce, produce exchange, library, church insurance company, clearing house for the exchange of valuable information, and social club, all rolled into one. Outside of its members, few are aware of the immeasurable good it has done. The large percentage of farmers among the inhabitants of this country is sufficient proof that any great benefit which they derive must of necessity materially benefit the nation as a whole. Understanding this vital point, it is easy to perceive wherein the grange is exerting a stupendous force for good in the great work it is doing.

## PERSIAN TREASURER GENERAL

One of the most remarkable situations in history is happening in the case of the young American, William Morgan Shuster, who, as treasurer general of the Persian empire, has been besting the keenest diplomats of Europe for the past six months. This young man is only thirty-four years old and he started life as a stenographer.

This youngster, who has one of the biggest contracts in the world on his hands, was born in Washington, D. C., in 1877. His parents live there still. After his graduation from Columbia, Shuster obtained a position as a stenographer in the war department at Washington. When the Spanish war broke out he was made assistant secretary of the commission that had charge of the evacuation of Cuba. He was then only twenty-one. Shuster remained in the Cuban customs service three years, and when he got through was special deputy collector of customs for Cuba. This was in 1901, and Shuster was twenty-four years old. A collector of customs for the Philippines was needed. It was one of the big administrative bureaus of the government's colonial possessions. Shuster was chosen. When Shuster had done everything in the way of work in the Philippines he returned to Washington and started a law practice. He was a success as a lawyer and relinquished a paying practice to take charge of affairs in Persia.

The present situation in Persia, which is well known to all readers of the news, is what took Shuster from America and a lucrative law practice to the general treasuryship of that crumbling empire.



## COLLEGE PRESIDENT RETIRES



President George Harris, the venerable head of the University of Amherst, believes that he has reached the age when he should retire in favor of a younger generation and accordingly he has sent in his resignation to the Board of Trustees.

Professor Harris has been president of the university since 1899 and during his administration the institution has progressed and prospered.

It was entirely through the efforts of President Harris that the first fund for increasing the salaries of the junior professors of the faculty was raised. It was also through his efforts that the last fund of \$400,000 was realized, the object of which was to increase the incomes of the senior members of the teaching staff.

Professor Harris is sixty-eight years old and is among the foremost educationalists in the country. His retirement, which he wishes to take place before commencement, is deeply regretted by his co-workers with whom he has labored for many years.

## A GREAT ENGLISH PREACHER

The man who has earned for himself the title of "the modern Savonarola," Rev. Bernard Vaughan, S. J., the great London preacher, is now in this country for a long visit and Americans will have an opportunity to study at close range this fiery and impassioned clergyman, who has gained international fame by his exhortations of the sins and follies of the idle and the wealthy in the British metropolis.

Although without any ecclesiastical title, Father Bernard Vaughan has as much influence in the church as many prelates. He is a favorite at all the Catholic courts of Europe, and he is a frequent guest at Buckingham Palace. And he is also an honored visitor in the London slums, where he is as much at home in a meeting of costermongers as at a king's garden party.

Father Vaughan will visit and will preach in nearly all the big cities of the United States during his visit. His oratory probably will be a surprise to those who are accustomed to the rather cold formalism of English preachers. It astonished his audience when he preached some years ago before Pope Leo XIII. in Rome.

Fashionable society is not the only phase of life which Father Vaughan has dealt with in his London sermons. He is as hard on the sins of the east as of the metropolis as he is on the follies and failings of the west end and wherever he speaks he adjusts his discourses to his audiences.



## Happy New Year of Many Nations

NEW YEAR'S day has for generations been the occasion of revels. It has come down to us from the old German custom of dividing the year at the close of those months when it was no longer possible to keep cattle out doors.

This was made quite a fête and in the sixth century was merged into the feast of St. Martin, November 11, on which day the opening of the New Year was celebrated.

While in Germany Martinmas and the New Year were identical, with the introduction of the Roman calendar the celebration was gradually transferred to the first of January, and with it went many of the jolly Martinmas customs.

Traces of these old New Year observances and superstitions can still be traced in the way the season is kept in different lands.

Our decorations of greens, for instance, are a relic of the old Roman superstition of presenting branches of trees for good luck in the coming year.

The giving of presents has also come to us from the Romans. They outdid even the generous Americans, for they used to ask for gifts, if not received, until one of the emperors forbade his subjects demanding gifts save on the New Year.

One of the favorite New Year's gifts after pins were invented in England, in the sixteenth century, were the rough hand-made pieces of metal that took the place of bone and wood skewers. Later pin money was substituted.

A gift that must never be omitted was an orange stuck with cloves to grace the wassail bowl. Apples, nuts and fat fowl were popular offerings of the season.

Gloves and glove money is a very old New Year custom which is still kept up in the increasing use of gloves as holiday gifts.

Even more curious are the old New Year customs. Many of these are still observed by old-fashioned people who cling to the old traditions.

The old-fashioned Englishman will formally open the outer door of his house on New Year's eve just at the approach of midnight. This is to let out the old year and usher in the new.

The Scotch make much of New Year. It is generally ushered in with a "hot pint," brewed at home and drunk by the family standing around the bowl just as midnight strikes.

After hearty greetings to the New Year, the "hot pint," with bread, cheese and cakes, is taken to the houses of the neighbors. The first to enter another's home on the first of January bestows good luck on the family for the year.

In many of the Scottish regiments even yet the ushering in of New Year is most picturesque. At five minutes before twelve the soldiers, headed by the oldest man in the regiment dressed as Father Time, march out of barracks headed by the band playing "Auld Lang Syne."

Just at the stroke of twelve there comes a knock at the gate.

"Who goes there?" calls the sentry. "The New Year," is the answer. "Advance, New Year," is called back.

The gates are thrown open and the smallest drummer lad in the regiment, dressed in Highland costume, is carried in on the shoulders of the men, and marched around the barracks to the pipers' tunes. The rest of the night is spent in carousing.

The passing of years is like the coming of dawn—slow, silent, inevitable. The most eager cannot hasten the quiet, irresistible movement, and the most reluctant cannot forbid. Some gifts the years bring which we would fain decline—age, sorrow, disappointment. Some treasures they take which we would keep forever—youth, beauty, innocence. But there are more precious treasures which time cannot supply and the years cannot remove—friendship, patience, faith and love.—Herbert L. Willett.

all useless baggage, drop everything that is a drag, that hinders your progress.

Enter the door of the new year with a clear slate and a free mind. Don't be mired to the past, and never look back.—Orison Swett Marden in Success Magazine.

The wind blew there and the wind blew here, And brought from somewhere the small New Year.

It tapped for him at each door and pane And never once was a knock in vain! All good folks waited the coming child, Their doors they opened and on him smiled.

Inside he stepped, with a happy face, And softly slipped in the Old Year's place. Said he: "I bring you a Box of Days, Tied round with tresses of rainbow rays; I give it joyfully, for I know, Though all days may not with gladness glow, Each gift holds some precious bit of cheer."

To win your thanks," said the sweet Child Year!

Good New Year's Resolves

The New Year is a good time to "leave the low-vaulted past," to drop the yesterday, to forget bitter memories.

Resolve that when you cross the line between the old and the new year you will close the door on everything in the past that pains and cannot help you. Free yourself from everything which handicaps you, keeps you back and makes you unhappy. Throw away

## A Prayer for the New Year

ETERNAL God, in whom is the hope of all our years, remember us in Thy mercy also in this new year of our Lord. Reveal Thy glory in the experience of its joys and sorrows. Forestall its tears with the abiding comfort of Thy presence. Make us strong rightly to measure all our gains and to endure with patience every loss Thy love allows. Show us Thy meaning in the gifts and opportunities of each new day. Assure us of Thy help in labor, Thy delight in our joys. Quicken our minds to clear vision and our hearts to cheerful content. Provide for our bodies such vigor as shall be needful for our allotted work. We leave to Thee the mystery of the year's events, assured that Thou wilt guide our way. Withhold from us all gifts which would prevent Thy purpose for our growth in wisdom and in service. Only deny us not Thyself—Thy Spirit to instruct our hearts, Thy work to share, Thy peace to still our restlessness, Thy presence to resolve our doubts. In the sitting of temptation grant that our faith fail not, and when our years are ended bring us to Thyself, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

## A Happy New Year



Just at the turn of midnight, When the children are fast asleep, The tired Old Year slips out by himself, Glad of a chance to be laid on the shelf, And the New Year takes a peep.

## Best Gift of Time

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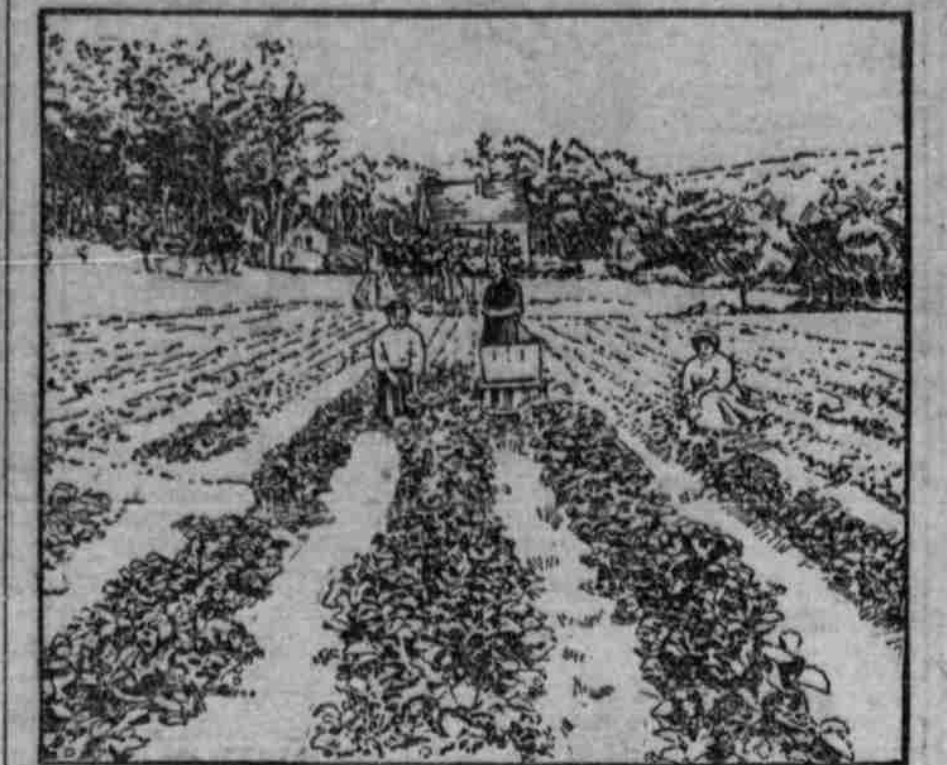
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## STRAWBERRIES ONE OF MOST POPULAR OF THE SMALL FRUITS

Few Other Occupations Afford Larger Opportunities or Give Such Quick Returns and Rank Among Our Greatest and Most Promising of Products—Some Very Excellent Hints.



A Profitable Strawberry Patch.

(By W. M. BURKE)  
Government statistics tells us that next to the apple, the strawberry is the most universally grown fruit in this country, and that the amount of annual revenue received from the strawberry crop is second only to that received from the apple crop.

Viewed, therefore, from the standpoint of pleasure and profit, the strawberry may be ranked among our greatest and most promising of products.

First, let us consider the soil. The strawberry, although not requiring an extremely rich soil, still is a heavy feeder, and responds very quickly to generous treatment in that regard.

Any soil that will grow good corn, potatoes, or a general line of vegetables, also will grow a good crop of strawberries. However, a light dressing of barnyard-fertilizer, scattered over the plot during the winter or early spring, will aid greatly in producing the desired results.

Plowing or spading should be done to the depth of six or eight inches, depending upon the nature of the soil; and then it should be thoroughly harrowed until it is as fine as an ash-heap, when it will be ready for the reception of the plants.

If the soil be composed largely of sand, or what is known as a sandy loam, it will be well to roll the plot, or drag a plank over it, before setting the plants. This will firm the soil, and put it in just the proper condition for the plants. If the soil inclines to clay, or is a clay-loam, then this will be unnecessary, as the soil is by nature compact.

The next consideration is the quality of plants. During the last fifteen years, no other feature of agriculture has been more strongly emphasized by the scientific and practical tillers of the soil, than the importance of good seed and good plants.

If one has room say for 100 plants, he should select twenty-five plants each of an extra-early variety, twenty-five of the so-called early variety, twenty-five of the mid-season plants, and twenty-five of the very late.

Where the plot is somewhat larger, and is to be cultivated with the hoe rather than with a horse-cultivator, the single-hedge system may be adopted if desired, and rows may be made 30 inches apart, and the plants set 20 inches apart in the rows. Under this system the grower will permit the maturing of two runner plants from the mother, or original plant set, and these plants will be layered in line with the mother-plant in the row.

This will give the grower three plants for fruiting in the season following instead of one plant, and as there will be ample room for sunshine and air, there probably will be an actual increase in the quantity of fruit as compared with the hill system, although it must be said that the hill system is the one which will yield the greatest number of large berries.

In setting plants, there is nothing so convenient in the way of a tool as

the dibble. This is a large steel blade with a handle, and while the plants are being set is held in the grower's right hand. The dibble should be forced to the depth of six inches, when pressed outward, so as to make an opening large enough to take in the roots of the plants.

The roots should be placed in this opening before the dibble is withdrawn. After the roots are placed in the opening and the dibble withdrawn, thrust it into the soil about two inches from the opening. Draw it toward you, thus pressing the earth firmly against the roots of the plant. When this is done, firm the soil with the fingers about the crown of the plant, leaving the top of the crown just even with, or slightly above the surface of the soil.

In this connection, we should say that all plants should be pruned before setting. The rule to observe is to trim the roots by at least one-third. This may be done by taking a large pair of shears and cutting off the lower end of the mass of roots. Then when you place these roots in the soil, spread them out like a fan.

The plants should be cultivated every ten days during the season, and a good rule to observe is that after every rain, just as soon as the soil will crumble in the hand, the plants should be cultivated. By so doing, the surface of the soil is covered with fine particles of earth which, in common parlance, is a dust-mulch.

The dust-mulch destroys capillary action, and instead of the moisture in the soil evaporating into the air, it can escape from the soil only through the plants themselves.

Set out your plants in April or May of 1912 and pinch off every blossom that appears during the entire growing season of 1912, but in the spring of 1913 every blossom should be allowed to develop into a large and luscious berry.

After the plants have been cultivated the first season, and when the first heavy freeze has come, the plants should be mulched with straw of any kind. Mulching between the rows should be at a depth of from two to four inches, depending upon the climate, and the mulching over the plants should be very light, indeed, except in the more rigorous climates.

The strawberry is seldom killed by freezing. It is the alternate freezing and thawing, that causes the soil to heave, that is dangerous to the strawberry.

But mulching serves many other and important purposes—it helps to retain moisture in the soil; it adds to the richness of the soil, and it keeps down the weeds while the crop of fruit is coming on, thus rendering it unnecessary for any cultivation to go forward during this important period. But to the lover of fine, clean fruit, free from all grit and sand, the most important thing about this mulching is that it gives the fruit a clean carpet to ripen upon, and thus the fruit goes to the table clean, and free from everything objectionable.

## PROPER STORAGE FOR POTATOES



When potatoes are to be stored and protected against zero temperatures a pit may be dug as shown in the illustration. There must be a sufficient covering of straw, earth and manure, which will be banked up higher as the weather becomes colder. Ventilation is necessary for the first month or two.